



milton keynes

university of the third age



Nov
2016



Message from the Chairman

October has been a strange month. There were twelve days with some kind of U3A involvement for me and yet I was not able to report anything really positive to the last Trustees meeting. Not to say that I personally didn't get anything out of October U3A life. A visit to the 'Line Dancing' Group proved to me that there is at least as much brain dexterity needed as bodily flexibility (sadly lacking). And you will be pleased to hear that the Chairman's three-wheeler Morgan, kindly purchased by the 'Outings' group on its recent visit to Malvern, will reach the end of the delivery queue sometime in late 2017 to give me five months of sporty driving before I relinquish my post! I wish!

The monthly Open Meetings continue to delight and I thank the organisers for the hard work in finding unusual and entertaining speakers. The maxim *'It's Not the Subject – It's The Speaker That Matters'* certainly held true last month. The subject – 'Rock and Alpine Gardens' – didn't immediately grab my attention, but when John Page took to the stage, you knew you were in for a treat. We were in the presence of not only a world expert on such plants (and also on tulips, by the way), he was also a get-up-and-go man who climbs hills and mountains around the world, hunting down these plants. His extensive knowledge of the history of such plants and gardens was the framework for a fascinating insight into this esoteric subject.

By the time of publication, we will have already had the October meeting (which I'm also really looking forward to) but November will be fascinating as Jean Yates returns to entertain us again, this time on a favourite subject – 'Pub Signs'. Please come along and see if you can bamboozle her with some strange names that you are aware of!

Look out for exciting development of relationships with other U3As. Brian Baldwin (Regional Volunteer) is looking at this over a four county area to see where we can find new areas for education and research, on a shared input basis. Other U3As have already developed groups in place and we should be able to tap into a wealth of expertise.

MK U3A – The Future

With so much good going on, it's hard to bring up yet again the difficult subject of management continuity of MK U3A. I know it's boring, but we are reaching a crisis that must be dealt with over the next few months. I have sent a message separately to all members this month and I must back this up with this paragraph to emphasise the serious position we are now in. Some people have put heads over the parapet, and some adjustments to roles have been made to simplify the major tasks (e.g. the treasurer will have much of the 'cashier' role looked after by other members of his / her team), but the situation remains that we need some key positions filled, in particular Treasurer and Secretary. I will be going 'on leave' for six weeks immediately after the AGM (kangaroos, here we come!) and I would really like to get to know those who are going to share decision in the near future. Be clear, I will not be able to continue without these positions filled. This will be a

discussion point at the . . .

Group Leaders Meeting

. . . on 2nd November, at which I hope to see all Group Leaders, or appointed delegate. This meeting is gaining in importance as it forms an excellent communication channel across the levels of MK U3A. All ideas that you have to help should be passed on to your representative. This should also be a good social event as we have asked all in attendance to bring along a packed lunch that we can share between morning and afternoon sessions. Who's bring the Moet . . . ?

Sithee

Nigel

Message from the Communications Co-ordinator

Just a word of warning about an online scam which caught out a friend of mine. Luckily she was able to rectify the problem with swift action.

In brief, my friend received an email purportedly from iTunes, this is an account that users of Apple iPads, iPhones or Apple Mac computers use to purchase music or apps.

The email stated that they were checking whether a purchase costing £89 was legitimate. If it wasn't she needed to open a link and to report it.

During the reporting procedure she was asked to add the card used for this account again to verify her identity. She did this and then had second thoughts so contacted Apple by phone to check the veracity of the email. On hearing that they had not sent the email she took immediate action and cancelled the card with her bank. Luckily there had been no time for the scammers to use her card for purchases.

The email looked genuine but we all know that we shouldn't give out personal data and card details. One of our members, Celia Hart, has asked me to recommend that U3A members watch the BBC TV programme or visit the website of 'Rip off Britain'. Older people are the target for many internet scams that steal identity and money fraudulently, and these are exposed by the presenters to help us avoid being victims of crime. The 'how to stay safe with internet banking' and 'how to protect your computer, identity and passwords', tips from experts are very useful as apparently even a house sale can be at risk.

A Message from Chris Behrendt, Current Groups Coordinator

Group 87 Patchwork and Quilting Group

Due to ill health the G.L. for the group has stood down. As a request for information as to whether the group still exists has received no response it is with regret is considered ceased.

Group 48 Latin Group

Are you or were you a member of this group or could you be a member of MKU3A who is interested in learning or revising your Latin knowledge? A proposer has come forward to re-establish the group if enough people are interested. Please contact Chris Behrendt currentgroups@mku3a.org 07766 026 357 if you are interested.

Suggested New Groups

We now have an agreed policy with regard the setting up of suggested new groups. A copy of the policy is available on the website

Book Group – Murder Mystery and Mayhem

The first meeting of this group will be on Tuesday 25 October. For further information, contact Chris Costello, 01908 317233, bookgroup3@mku3a.org

Cribbage Group

We have now been offered a venue in a M.K. Sheltered Housing premises. Those who have previously expressed an interest have been contacted. All other who may be interested please contact at the details given below.

Language Groups – Spanish and Italian

The requirements for external tutors are to be discussed at the Trustees meeting on 25.10.16.

Family History – Opportunities are now being explored as to the future of this group.

Suggested New Groups – October & November

Current Affairs

Would anyone be interested in meeting together to discuss current affairs one afternoon a fortnight, possibly on a Tuesday or a Thursday? I am sure there must be others like me who cannot make it to the existing morning groups. Meeting would be held at my house in West Bletchley – near the No4 bus route. It is hoped to get together a small group of 4-8 people to begin with to discuss topics in the news over a cup of tea/coffee and a biscuit. Contact Lena Woldemariam 01908 990053 or newgroups@mku3a.org

Play Reading Group

"I run one of the two Play Reading groups (at my house in Woburn Sands) - both of which are most successful, but the situation is that both myself and Gloria Isaacs who runs the other group at York House, Stony Stratford are full and we are continually getting inquiries for members who wish to join us.

The time has come for someone to be willing to start up a third group - I am sure that we could arrange for the same set of plays to be used if we could encourage a keen member to take on this task, either in their home, if they are able, or if not, in one of the many local rooms that can be hired."

For further information, contact: Anna Farmer 01908 282034 playreading2@mku3a.org

Are any of the above of interest to you?

Please contact newgroups@mku3a.org or telephone Chris Behrendt on 07766 026 357

News from the Groups

The Christmas Concert by our MKU3A Choir will be held in **Lovat Hall, Silver Street, Newport Pagnell**

on **Friday 16th December at 7.30pm**. The tickets are £7 which include refreshments and are available by phoning either Janice Miles on 07762178379 or Sylvia Tyler on 01908 520586. Proceeds from the concert will be divided between the Brain Injury Rehabilitation Service at Thomas Edward Milton House and the Eclipse Counselling Services.



Summer Redway Walks – A Reminder

We have finished our Tuesday walks for this year and will once again merge with the Rambling Group on Wednesday mornings during the winter months.

The Summer Redway Walks will start again in mid-March when the Ramblers return to the fields. Please check the website for further details.

The MKU3A Shakespeare Group, normally a discussion and reading group, took to the boards at their September meeting to enact a scene from A Midsummer Night's Dream.



The 'mechanicals' line up for a curtain call; (l to r) Patricia Hundy, Pat Mountford, Barbara Usher, Jac Collins, Pamela Wakerly, Keith James.

(l to r) Barbara Usher (as Pyramus), Patricia Hundy (as Wall) and Jac Collins (as Thisbe). *Photos by Tony Usher.*



Advanced Photography Success. We send out congratulations to Derek Barrett a member of the Advance Photography group on the publication of his photo as a 2 page spread in their feature 'Hot Shots' published in the November 2016 edition of Digital Photography Magazine.



Exploring World Faiths

An initial informal gathering will take place on Wednesday 7th December at 2pm. If you would like to attend this meeting, please ring Linda Morris to register your interest and attendance. She will then be able to ensure that there is enough seating to accommodate the attendees. Tel. 01908 617050, Email. ewf@mku3a.org

In January this new group will meet at 2pm on the first Wednesday afternoon of each month in an MK place of worship. Our first visit will be in January to the Synagogue. Directions will be distributed to members of the group at our December social gathering.

A message from Linda Morris. If you sent an email in September asking for more details but didn't receive a reply from me, please could you contact me again as I had a problem with my emails.

Groups Looking to Increase their Membership

Do you enjoy playing **S₁ C₃ R₁ A₁ B₃ B₃ L₁ E₁**, if so the Scrabble Group might be the group for you? They are a small friendly group who meet every Friday afternoon between 2pm and 4pm at Hinton Lodge, Whaddon Way, Bletchley. and would welcome new members. They play two games each session and take a refreshment break mid-way through the afternoon.

The members play at varying levels but the most important thing is enjoyment of the game.

Please call Linda Krelle, the Group Leader on 01908 508922 if you are interested in joining this very enjoyable social group.

CALLING ALL MUSIC LOVERS - Let's hear your music tastes!

We are the **Music Appreciation Group** that meets twice a month (2nd and 4th Thursday morning) in Two Mile Ash.

We take it in turns to decide our own "playlist" for the meeting (not compulsory) and it's a chance to discover different types of music and artists.

So whether you are a jazz lover, an opera or classical buff or whether you just enjoy relaxing to different genres of music, we'd love to know you.

Give us a call or email us and we can tell you all about our group.

Contact: Sally Saunders 07948366778 or email us at: a.saunders319@btinternet.com

Personal Recommendations by Members

George Manley recommends a Father and Son Decorating Business. **J Norris and Son**. Contact details 07751039400

I have recently had most of my house repainted. The work was perfect, clean and price was reasonable. I would highly recommend them. Note they are very busy so you will have to book ahead.

Celia Hart would like to recommend **Paul and Joe at 'Advance Travel'** in Stony Stratford for making holiday bookings of all kinds so easy and safe. They give a friendly personal service and are a fund of knowledge about travelling abroad. Tel: 01908 263777

Are you looking for Christmas Gifts? The Country Market (formerly W.I.) in the Bath House, Wolverton next to Tesco might be the place to look. They stock children's painting aprons, party dresses and baby clothes (made to order if required). They are open every Friday between 9am - 1pm.

Andrea and Neville Gray would like to recommend **Sam Woodward** of **SAS Gardening Services**. Contact Details 07933 155720 or email sasgardening@gmx.co.uk

Sam was recommended to us by a Manager of Michael Graham Estate Agents. We have used Sam's services twice for cutting substantial hedges. Sam was trained on a National Trust Estate and has an NVQ qualification in Horticulture. His expertise in the management of trees and plants is far above that on offer elsewhere. He also undertakes landscaping jobs. Sam is personable and sensible and we have found his rates to be reasonable, around £15.00 per hour for what is skilled work.

Dorothy Freeman would like to recommend the **Willen Hospice Bookshop** at 30 High Street, Stony Stratford to all bibliophiles in the U.3.A. This shop is dedicated to selling high quality second-hand books, Christmas cards and calendars. The prices are low, (£1.50 for a paper-back) and they carry books covering a wide range of subjects so you never know what you might find during a short browse. There is a further Willen Hospice shop at 84 High Street where other charity items can be found for sale.

[Disclaimers and Copyright](#)

The material in this magazine does not reflect the views of the Trustees, unless specifically acknowledged to be so. All other material represents the view of the contributing member, for which no responsibility is accepted by the publisher. Publication of an advertisement does not imply recommendation by the U3A. Reproduction in any form whatsoever without the written permission of the editor is not allowed.

Upcoming Theatre Trips

Date	Show	Pay by
Wed 16th Nov	Relatively Speaking	Passed
Thurs 12th Jan '17	Dick Whittington	26th Nov
Wed 25th Jan '17	Thoroughly Modern Millie	28th Nov
Thurs 16th Feb '17	The Red Shoes	Sold Out*
Wed 1st March '17	Funny Girl	4th Jan
Sun 9th April '17	Lord of the Dance	30th Jan
Fri 28th April '17	Dirty Dancing	10th Oct
Wed 10th May '1	Mamma Mia	13th March
Wed 9th July '17	Wonderland	30th Jan
Wed 6th Sept '17	The Curious Incident of The Dog in the Night	3rd April

* If you would like to see this show please contact Hilary to be added to a waiting list. Tickets sometimes become available and she will need to know who to contact to offer the returned tickets.

Oh no it isn't, Oh yes it is!! Panto time is coming! The MK U3A Theatre Outing to the Pantomime at the Theatre in Milton Keynes is open to all members. Why not bring along the family to see Dick Whittington which is this year's performance?

Tickets are available now and a booking form can be found on the Theatre Group Page of the MKU3A website. The details of the performance are 1pm on January 2nd and the tickets are £20 each. The last date to pay for the tickets is Saturday 26th November.



Every year in the Costa Brava members of the U3A Costa Brava and others produce a unique pantomime in English for the local community. This year they are currently rehearsing, Peter Pan and the Pirates of Palamos. (Palamos is the local fishing port and the Bay of Palamos is one of the most beautiful in the area – wide golden sands and safe swimming. It is also the place to buy Palamos Prawns, the local but expensive delicacy made famous by Rick Stein).

Last year, during one of the performances, a local lady who was experiencing a pantomime for the first time, jumped up in the middle of the show and turning to the audience told everyone to ¡Cállate! Ellos están haciendo su mejor! Shut up! They are doing their best! This made everyone laugh even more and an explanation had to be given about pantos to the irate woman.

Please refer to the website for further details or contact the organiser on theatre@mku3a.org

Milton Keynes Theatre Group



Please note the Theatre Group is open to you as a MKU3A member.

You can, as a member, bring along family and friends to any performance if there is availability. The more seats we book the cheaper they will be. The minimum booking is usually 10.

I will endeavour to be at the Open Meetings to take bookings or you can email or call me to book a place.

It works like this.

A post-dated cheque (pay by date on sheet) payment with booking form. I will hold your cheque and bank it just before I collect the tickets. If for whatever reason the show does not run, I will either destroy or return the cheque to you. I can post tickets to you if you include an SAE.

I will send you an email asap to say your cheque has arrived and then notify you when your ticket is posted or available for collection

Theatre Contact: Hilary Beckett, 107 Lakes Lane, Newport Pagnell, Bucks MK16 8HT

Mobile 07867978585. Email theatre107@gmail.com or Theatre@mku3a.org

Cheques to be made payable to MKU3A.

Upcoming Outings

Date	Venue	Last B'king Date
Thurs 3rd Nov	Richard III Tour of Leicester	Passed
Fri 18th Nov	Longleat & Festival of Light	Passed
Thurs 24th Nov	60's Christmas Show Party	Passed

Please refer to the website for further details or contact the organiser on outings@mku3a.org 01908 506706

Booking Forms for both these groups can be found on the relevant pages of the website or on the individual postings in the Diary

Open Meetings

23rd Nov The Origins of Pub Signs

Have you ever wonder how a pub got its name and where the signs originated from?

Jean Yates is one of our own members and will tell us about the 2000 years of history hanging over our heads. The humble inn sign can tell us if we are on a medieval pilgrim route, where the landlord's loyalties lay or the local trades. Unravel the clues with a look at how pub names have recorded events from the Romans to the present day.

The Strudwick Café is part of the MKCC and is open for drinks and light lunches before the meeting

Date for Your Diary

The Twice Yearly Group Leaders Meeting will be held on Wednesday 2nd November at the Ridgeway Centre. There will be a choice of two sessions, either morning or afternoon and Group Leaders or their representatives will be welcome to attend the most suitable for them. We would like to suggest that both groups meet up with a packed lunch either at the beginning or end of the respective meetings to make it a more social occasion where we can catch up with other group leaders and exchange suggestions and ideas. The agenda to be circulated shortly.

Items of Interest

Stephanie Warren has submitted the following: **Bow Brickhill Women's Institute** meet on Thursday 24th November at 7.30 pm in The Pavilion, Rushmere Close, Bow Brickhill for their AGM followed by a Book Exchange accompanied by Cheese and Wine. New members and Visitors are welcome and pay £3 towards expenses. A raffle is available. Further details are available from Stephanie Warren on 01908 671394.

Institute of Physics Lecture – Human Colour Vision.

On Tuesday 13th December at 19.30, Professor Andrew Stockman from University College London will be the speaker in the Berrill Lecture Theatre at the OU on the subject of Human Colour Vision. The lecture is free and all are welcome.

The Living Archive Fundraising Show celebrating the upcoming MK 50th anniversary will be held in the Scout Hut in Wolverton on Sunday 6th November at 3pm. The show will be accompanied by **The Living Archive Band**. Tickets are £5 and it is advisable that you book early as numbers are limited. Tickets can be bought from either Mrs B's Emporium in Wolverton or from The Living Archive Tel. 01908 322568 admin@livingarchivemk.org.uk There is more information in the Latest News area of the website.

The Living Archive Book Sale. Milton Keynes' past is the perfect present

Milton Keynes past is the ideal way to celebrate Christmas present, according to local charity Living Archive. For Christmas 2016 the people's history project is offering a range of unusual gifts including rare local photos, CDs, DVDs and books - all offering a window on the city's past.

Santa at the Bletchley Co-op Christmas parade in 1964, a horse-drawn fire engine in Fenny Stratford, and the opening of the M1 near Newport Pagnell are among more than 100 images available for sale in Living Archive's online shop. For a small fee images can be downloaded, printed and framed to make really unusual and distinctive gifts.

This November, shoppers can grab a bargain in the half price book sale with most items costing less than £10, Living Archive's online shop is ideal for stocking fillers. What's more, every penny spent on its unique gift range is also a gift to the charity - which uses the funds to help it continue its work of capturing the city's stories from the mouths of those who live here. Other great gifts in the online shop include music from the irrepressible Living Archive Band, the letters local boy Albert French wrote from the 1st World War trenches on CD ROM, a DVD telling the story of Wolverton Works, and a film homage to Geoff Cooksey, first Director of Stantonbury Campus.

For bookworms Living Archive has a wide range of titles that can't be found in bookshops. They include their latest publication 'Mud, Sweat and the Rule of Law' for local Rugby fans, 'Players Passions and Pitches' a collection of memories from MK's football heritage and 'Milton Keynes Book of Days of the Great War' which contains contributions and stories from local families for every day of the Great War.

"We believe everyone has a story to tell," says Director Mel Jeavons. "Our job is to make it easy for people to tell their stories and do all we can to share them back with the local community - in the shape of the fascinating books, films and photos people will find for sale in our online shop."

Check out the online shop and discover how you can be a part of writing this area's history at www.livingarchive.org.uk

Workers' Educational Association. On Saturday 12th November, the WEA will present a Genealogy Day School at the Summerlin Centre in Woburn Sands. entitled '**The Pleasures and Pitfalls of Family History.**' Jessica Feinstein will be the tutor. If you are intrigued by your family history this might be the course for you. The course will give you a thorough understanding of genealogy, detail different ways of recording, either on paper or using a computer, and cover the fun and difficulties you might experience. You will be given details of free websites and how to use them properly. This course is suitable for beginners as well as more experienced researchers.

Time: 10.30am to 4.30pm. Cost: £27.50. Bring your own lunch.

For further information, please contact Jeannine Golding on: 01908 567869 or email: jeannine.golding@btinternet.com

On-line enrolment: enrolonline.wea.org.uk/Online/2016/CourseInfo.aspx?r=C3740191

Beanstalk, a children's literacy charity that recruits and trains reading helpers who support children across Milton Keynes is looking for volunteers. Each volunteer would support 3 children on a 1:1 basis, two afternoons a week in term time. Free training will be given. For more information, please contact Rebecca Carter on 01604 720969 www.beanstalkcharity.org.uk



Milton Keynes Archaeology Day 2016

Milton Keynes Central Library Saturday 12th November 10am until 4pm

This year the open day will be featuring stands, displays and activities from local societies, archaeological units and the Portable Antiquities Service. Confirmed speakers are Mark Knight on the Must Farm Bronze Age Settlement; Ben Ford on Westgate – Oxford's largest ever excavation and Bob Zeepvat on the Wolverton Anglo-Saxon cemetery. There will also be a 'hands-on' archaeology workshop for children.

Full details can be found by clicking on this link

http://www.archaeologyuk.org/cbasm/index.htm_files/Archaeology%20Day%202016.pdf

Key Contact Details—more on the web site

Chair: Nigel Wright email: chair@mku3a.org Tel: 01908 667007

Secretary: Janice Miles email: secretary@mku3a.org Tel: 01908 397944

Groups Co-ordinator: Christine Behrendt email: currentgroups@mku3a.org

Datum Project: Dave Barratt email: datum@mku3a.org

Web Master: Dave Barratt email: webmaster@mku3a.org

Assistant Webmaster: Len Barrows email: assntwebmaster@mku3a.org

Acting Treasurer: Brian Baldwin email: treasurer@mku3a.org Tel: 01908 670579

Groups Finance Administration: Geraldine Cannell email: groupsadmin@mku3a.org

Membership Secretary: Denise Messenger email: membersec@mku3a.org

Communications Co-ordinator: Lesley Sparks email: comms@mku3a.org

Halls Administration: Sue Giordano email: Hallsadmin@mku3a.org

Please refer to the website: www.mku3a.org for statements concerning **MKU3A Policies and Guidance** on all aspects of our administration **including Data Privacy, Disclaimers and Copyright**

Office: 11 Winchester Circle, Kingston, Milton Keynes MK10 0BA.

Telephone: 01908 281717. **E-mail:** info@mku3a.org

Registered charity number **298693**.

